

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request – OIA reform

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2018 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following:

- the dates the “targeted consultation” occurred or is expected to occur
- if it has occurred, the names and affiliations of all participants, as well as any material supplied to them (briefings, reports, proposals etc) as part of the consultation and any feedback they have provided
- all advice on this targeted consultation.

Your information request relates to possible legislative reform of the OIA. As you know, the Open Government Partnership Third National Action Plan 2018 -2020 (the Action Plan) commits the Government to improve the availability of official information. Part of this commitment involves the Ministry of Justice undertaking targeted engagement to inform a decision on whether to progress a review of the OIA, and the possible scope of such a review.

The Action Plan notes that targeted engagement will begin once the Privacy Bill is reported back to the House by the Justice Committee. While this was expected to happen in November 2018, the report back date has been extended to March 2019. Therefore, work on undertaking the promised targeted engagement is currently in its initial planning stages. For this reason, no advice has yet been produced on this matter and therefore there are currently no documents that fall within the scope of your request. As such, I am refusing the last two points of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the requested information does not exist.

You may be interested to know, however, that we are in the process of identifying the people and organisations we should speak to. We anticipate that our list will include the Office of the Ombudsman, academics, commentators and experienced public servants. We are also likely to draw on the views of people who participated in the public engagement exercise on the draft Action Plan.

As we hope to seek a range of views and are aware of your interest, we would be keen to speak to you about the OIA and therefore expect to be in touch with you in due course. I should note that whilst the exact dates for the targeted engagement are yet to be set, we anticipate it will occur in late March and early April 2019.

You have the right under s 28(3) of the OIA to complain to the Ombudsman about the decision to refuse your request. Contact details for the Office of the Ombudsman are:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
Wellington
Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Julia Goode, Senior Advisor, Media and External Relations on 021 636 416; or email media@justice.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Caroline Greaney
General Manager, Civil and Constitutional Policy